

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 04568 051334Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 EB-11 COME-00

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R 051000Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000L

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS TOKYO 4568

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: UAW PROPOSAL FOR VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON AUTO EXPORTS
TO U.S. REJECTED BY TOYOTA AND JAPAN AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS
ASSOCIATION: PRESS REPORTS

1. SUMMARY. JAPANESE PRESS REPORTED REJECTION BY TOYOTA MOTOR
CO. AND JAPAN AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (JAMA) OF UAW
PROPOSAL FOR VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON AUTO EXPORTS TO U.S. MITI
REPORTEDLY DECLINED TAKE STAND ON PROPOSAL DURING MEETING WITH
UAW INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR REBHAN. END SUMMARY.

2. APRIL 4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE JAPAN TIMES AND MAINICHI DAILY NEWS
CARRIED DENIALS BY TOYOTA MOTOR CO. AND ITS AFFILIATE, TOYOTA
MOTOR SALES CO., OF APRIL 3 MAINICHI REPORT THAT COMPANY AGREED
TO UAW PROPOSAL FOR VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON AUTO EXPORTS TO U.S.
ACCORDING PRESS, STATEMENT BY TOYOTA CALLED ERRONEOUS REPORT
QTE DISTORTION OF TOYOTA'S POSITION UNQTE.

3. TOYOTA STATEMENT REPORTEDLY GAVE COMPANY'S POSITION AS
FOLLOWS: VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS WOULD CONFLICT WITH
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U.S. ANTITRUST LAWS. JAPANESE AUTO MAKERS IN AS SERIOUS OR MORE
CRITICAL STRAITS THAN U.S. COUNTERPARTS DUE OIL CRISES AND UNDER

JAPANESE LABOR PRACTICES, AUTO MAKERS CANNOT LAY OFF WORKERS. ALTHOUGH TOYOTA'S EXPORTS TO U.S. IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY INCREASED 32 PERCENT OVER SAME PERIOD IN 1973, EXPORTS IN EARLY 1973 WERE LOW DUE INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY SITUATION. EXPORTS IN 1974 HAVE BEEN INCREASED IN ORDER REPLENISH DISTRIBUTORS' INVENTORIES WHICH DECLINED SHARPLY LAST YEAR AND IN ANTICIPATION OF DISRUPTION EXPORT SHIPMENTS DUE JAPANESE SEAMEN'S STRIKE EXPECTED BEGIN MID-APRIL.

4. ACCORDING REUTER'S REPORT CARRIED IN JAPAN TIMES, JAMA ALSO REJECTED UAW VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROPOSAL. JAMA REPORTEDLY STATED THAT SITUATION IN U.S. AUTO INDUSTRY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH INCREASE OR DECREASE OF IMPORTED CARS AND THAT DUE RECENT RISE IN PRICE OF JAPANESE CARS, LATTER HAD LOST FORMER STRONG COMPETITIVENESS.

5. APRIL 4 ASAHI SHIMBUN REPORTED OUTCOME OF UAW INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR REBHAN'S MEETING WITH SAITO, DIRECTOR GENERAL, MACHINERY AND INFORMATION INDUSTRIES BUREAU, MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI) AS INCONCLUSIVE. MITI SAID TO BE MONITORING TREND OF JAPANESE AUTO EXPORTS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S. INDUSTRY IN EVENT PROBLEM SURFACE IN FUTURE U.S.-JAPAN BILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS BUT HAS NOT TAKEN STAND ON UAW REQUEST FOR VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.

6. JAMA PRESIDENT EIJI TOYODA (ALSO PRESIDENT TOYOTA MOTORS) DECLINED MEET WITH REBHAN. APRIL 3 NIHON KEIZAI ARTICLE SPECULATED THIS REFLECTS JAPANESE AUTO INDUSTRY DOUBT THAT USG WOULD QTE TAKE UP THIS ISSUE IN REAL EARNEST WHEN CURRENT U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS ARE CONSIDERED UNQTE (STATEMENT BY TOYODA). ARTICLE ALSO SUGGESTS THAT UAW PRESIDENT WOODCOCK FLOATING TRIAL BALLOON FOR POLITICAL REASONS UAW ANNUAL CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE).
SHOESMITH

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